

TOP SECRET



25X

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2 February 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Classification Control Officer

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Authority Directive
No. 5

REFERENCE: Memo for DCI fr Gen. Richard Collins,
Dir of Plans, Programs & Security,
Dept of Army, dtd 20 Jan 59, same subject

1. We have reviewed the request from the Army in the letter referenced above that the attached excerpt from NIA Directive No. 5 be downgraded to SECRET. The only portion of that attachment of any real concern appears to be paragraph 3. a. thereof, which pertains to espionage and counterespionage outside the United States. It was this portion of the paper primarily that the National Intelligence Authority believed required a TOP SECRET classification. These clandestine activities are now the subject of National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 5, which was revised as recently as 15 September 1958. This Directive with the approval of the National Security Council is classified TOP SECRET-LIMITED DISTRIBUTION. It is apparent, therefore, that the National Security Council is of the same opinion as was the National Intelligence Authority that papers pertaining to assignment of functions in the clandestine field should be of a TOP SECRET classification.

2. I do not believe that we are in a position to comply with the Army's request that we downgrade a paper dealing with this subject matter. I have discussed this with the Deputy Director (Coordination), who agrees that so far as we are concerned the National Security Council appears to have settled the classification in this area. This

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is not the type of security problem that abates with age and, therefore, the former papers are no less sensitive than current ones. Furthermore, I think we should tell the Army that while we regret not being able to accede to their request, our attitude on this classification is a firm one and if an approach were made to the National Security Council for downgrading this subject we would be compelled to object.

3. You may wish to discuss this with the Office of Security and the Deputy Director (Plans) before answering the Army. Let me know if there is anything further I can contribute.

s/ Lawrence R. Houston

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

Attachments

- Ref memo w/ enclosure
Directive No. 5

OGC:LRH:jeb

Copy 1 - Addressee

Copy 2 - EO/DCI w/o att

Copy 3 - General Counsel w/o att - Security 3

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1	Mr. Lawrence Houston		
2	General Counsel		
3	Room 221, 		
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	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
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Remarks:

These papers are forwarded pursuant to our telephone conversation of 15 January 1959, as the result of which Col. Simmerman was advised to submit memo with paraphrased abstract.

The abstract represents a paraphrasing of Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of NIA #5.

Please note NSCID #5 Paragraph 3, as compared to Paragraph 3 of the paraphrase.

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Rm. 5B, 350 CIA Class. Control Officer	30 Jan 59